Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Careers Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting – January 12, 2009

Draft Meeting Notes:

Steering Committee Members attending:
Paula Cullenberg, Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program
Ginny Eckert, UAF School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
Debbie Hart, ADF&G Fish and Wildlife Careers for Alaskans Program
Ida Hildebrand, Chugach Regional Resource Commission
Sue Leatherbery, Lower Kuskokwim School District
Mike Miller, Sitka Tribe
Barbara Morgan, UAS Fisheries Technology Program
Glenn Seaman, Alaska Native Liaison, NOAA NCOS

Not attending:
Kyle Belleque, Ed Project Director, BBEDC
Rose Fosdick, Kawerak Natural Resources

I. Open Discussion Items:
   - Ginny has offered to join the steering committee. Thanks Ginny! Welcome!!! She introduced herself to the group again – she is a professor at UAF and is helping to get the UAF SFOS undergraduate degree programs going, especially in Juneau. And concentrating efforts on rural Alaskans and Native Alaskans. She is also heading up a new NSF degree program – IGERT – interested in funding minority students – AK Natives in particular – Marine Ecosystems Sustainability, an interdisciplinary program. New classes (example: Traditional Ecological Knowledge), good funding (three years support, tuition + stipend). Graduate program has a strong mentorship component to mentor undergraduate students (native and rural focus). Are there ways the coalition can help find students/network? Ginny can put together an informational sheet for the coalition to distribute. Will there be distance delivery courses – all undergraduate courses will now be distance delivered as long as resources are available to connect. For new grad classes, these courses will be delivered to Juneau and Fairbanks – other areas will be able to connect. Improvements in the distance delivery are needed and will be incorporated as the programs continue to develop. Paula advised that true distance delivery courses need to consider the non-traditional students – such as folks with full times jobs, various levels of distance delivery technology, etc… Glenn asked about the ANSEP – biology component/ where does this fit in? This relation ship is slowly evolving in SE, there is a need for a full time person to help coordinate this effort and as Ginny settles into her position she will continue to develop those relationships with ANSEP and Katie Murra (Recruitment coordinator at UAF SFOS).

   - Paula updated the group on staffing assistance for the group – Rural Cap/UAA Center for Economic Development/ each have VISTA Volunteer opportunities. Paula has
sent a message to Ellen (Rural Cap)/ Christy Bell (UAA), both are very supportive of our request, and may let one of their slots go to our program. Either way it is looking positive. If this becomes possible we will need to submit an application and job description. This position could be fully funded at $15K or split costs. Can find applicants locally or do a national advertisement. (Full time employment for one-year)

II. Glenn provided an update on the 2009 Forum on the Environment:
   o Sent out an update via email with summaries of the sessions that are related to our goals. Includes agendas and descriptions of sessions:
     o February 2, Monday: Opening Sessions
       ▪ Morning Session (1¼ hr) - “The Reserved Warrior” (moderator, TBD): In the first session of conference, Solo Greene – an American Indian and member of the Nez Perce Tribe – will give a talk, “The Reserved Warrior.”
       ▪ Monday Afternoon (1¼ hr) - “Making a Difference: Local Involvement in Resource Management” (Rose Fosdick, Kawerak – Moderator): Alaska Native leaders in Tribal Natural Resource Management will encourage Alaska Natives get more involved and/or pursue a career in natural resource management or research. Speakers will set the stage for the conference.
     o February 4, Wednesday: Meaningful Community Involvement in Natural Resource Management
       ▪ Wednesday Morning (2 parts, 1 hr each) - “Tribal Subsistence Assessment Projects” (Cathy Needham, Kasaan Tribe – Moderator) – This two part session will highlight successful Tribal fish and wildlife projects which collect information important for resource management.
       ▪ Wednesday Afternoon (2 parts, ¼ hr each), “Tribal/Community Natural Resource Programs: A Pathway to Meaningful Involvement” (Patty Brown-Schwalenberg, Chugach Regional Resources Commission – Moderator) – This two part session will highlight success Local or Tribal natural resource and/or environmental programs (multiple project or issues, permanent staff, longevity)
     o February 5, Thursday: Marine Mammal Co-management and Pre-college and College Programs
       ▪ Thursday, 1st Morning Session (1 hr) - “Indigenous People’s Council for Marine Mammals” (Charles Johnson, IPCoMM – Moderator). A panel discussion about partnerships and information exchanges between Alaska Native Organizations and environmental non-government organizations around marine conservations issues of mutual concern. Another objective is to build capacity for marine mammal co-management between federal agencies and Alaska Native organizations.
       ▪ Thursday, 2nd Morning Session (1 hr) - “Local Community Involvement: The Marine Mammals Protection Act and Endangered Species Act” (Lianna Jack, Sea Otter/Seller Sea Lion Commission – Moderator): A two-part panel discussion about how to undertake local involvement related to the management of natural resources under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.
• Thursday, 1st Afternoon Session (1¼ hr) – continuation “Local Community Involvement: The Marine Mammals Protection Act and Endangered Species Act”
• Thursday, 1st Afternoon Session (1¼ hr) – “Science Training and Education Programs for Rural Alaskans: K-12 and Pre-college Recruitment” (Glenn Seaman, moderator) This session will highlight successful Tribal and University programs provide a pathway for high school students and other community members into a college education in the marine, fisheries, and other natural sciences.
• Thursday, 2nd Afternoon Session (1¼ hr) – continuation “Science Training and Education Programs for Rural Alaskans: College Programs” (Glenn Seaman, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science – Moderator) This session will highlight the several University of Alaska marine, fisheries, and natural resource programs available – and often designed – for rural Alaskans.

○ February 5, Friday: *Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Career Coalition*
  • Friday Morning (9:00 to noon) *Alaska Marine Science and Fisheries Career Coalition Meeting* (moderator TBD) The coalition is open to anyone interested in educating and employing Alaska Natives and rural Alaskans in the marine and fisheries sciences. The group will strive for enhance coordination and collaboration, and develop actions towards this goal.
  • Group agreed to continue with this meeting. Debbie will moderate. Other Possible attendees: Glenn Seaman, Sue Leatherbery, Ida Hildebrandt, Rose Fosdick, Bill Smoker UAF SFOS, Mike Reardon ANSEP? Others?

III. Debbie updated the group on the Exhibitor Booth schedule and staffing needs (Monday, February 2 – Thursday, February 4)
   a. Monday - 8:00-10:30am; 11:30am-2:00pm; 4:30-6:30pm
   b. Tuesday - 8:00-10:30am; 11:30am-2:00pm
   c. Wednesday - 8:00-10:30am; 11:30am-2:00pm; 4:30-6:30pm
   d. Thursday - 8:00-10:30am; 11:30am-2:00pm
   e. Debbie will send out an email explaining opportunity and providing more information on the exhibit format

IV. 3-5 page White paper – the story that tells the history, situation, “why” this coalition formed and what it is advocating for. This white paper will be used to help focus the coalition, share story with partners and others who may not be familiar with effort/need. May be used to help advocate for funding the MSA Section 109. This effort is on HOLD and will be included on our next teleconference agenda.

V. Next Steering Committee meeting: Tuesday, February 24th at 9:30am.